



## **UNIC and UN Millennium Campaign on Education Outreach**

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Interactive education outreach programme conducted by UNIC in association with UN Millennium Development Campaign at Shree Udaya Primary School in Bhaktapur district. Photo: UNIC

**Bhaktapur 27 Feb:** UNIC and the UN Millennium Development Goals Campaign (UNMC) jointly visited 3 public and private schools and interacted with students and teachers. During the interactive programme, UNIC National Information Officer Ram Babu Shah and the UNMC National Advocacy Specialist Seema Rajourya spoke about the role of the UN in contemporary world in respect to world peace, protection of human rights and the significance of the MDGs in Nepal's context. UNIC and UNMC also provided



Education outreach programme at Samaj Sudhar Secondary School in Bhaktapur. Photo: UNIC



Education outreach programme at Genuine Secondary School in Bhaktapur. Photo: UNIC

relevant reading materials and posters for the schools' library.

The teachers expressed views that such advocacy programmes should take place on regular basis to appraise students and teachers about the role played by the United Nations, both globally and in Nepal.





## Nepalese peacekeepers honoured in Haiti



A military Parade by Nepalese soldiers in the United Nations Peacekeeping Mission in Haiti.

**Haiti 27 Feb:** 1,068 Nepalese soldiers were awarded the United Nations peacekeeping medal at a colorful ceremony at their base in Haiti earlier this month. In the presence of the Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General and the Head of the United Nations Stabilization Force in Haiti (MINUSTAH), Mr. Hedi Annabi and many guests, they were honored for their work in order to help stabilize the Caribbean nation.

"The medal you receive today is given in recognition of your individual contribution in the implementation of MINUSTAH's mandate," Mr. Annabi said before decorating the Nepalese 'blue-helmets' at their camp in Charly à Tabarre.

"We are all aware that your service away from your country is a sacrifice for you and your families. I thank you for your commitment to the cause of peace and international security and for your dedication," said Mr. Annabi.

Mr. Annabi told the peacekeepers that they had "helped create a safe environment and the necessary conditions for Haiti to develop its economy and consolidate its base".

The Nepalese soldiers were responsible for providing security in Haiti's central plateau region and in particular at the borders with

the Dominican Republic. They also patrolled a sector in Haiti's capital Port-au-Prince.

This contingent of peacekeepers served during a very difficult time in Haiti. They were called upon to provide "life-saving assistance during the emergency rescue and evacuation" during last year's deadly Hurricane season when hundreds of Haitians were killed and hundreds of thousands displaced.

The Nepalese peacekeepers were also among the first to provide rescue and medical support to the victims of a collapse of a school near Haiti's capital in November which resulted in the deaths of more than 100 children.

Very focused on humanitarian issues, the Nepalese soldiers have recently taken an active part in a reforestation campaign waged by the peacekeepers of the MINUSTAH.

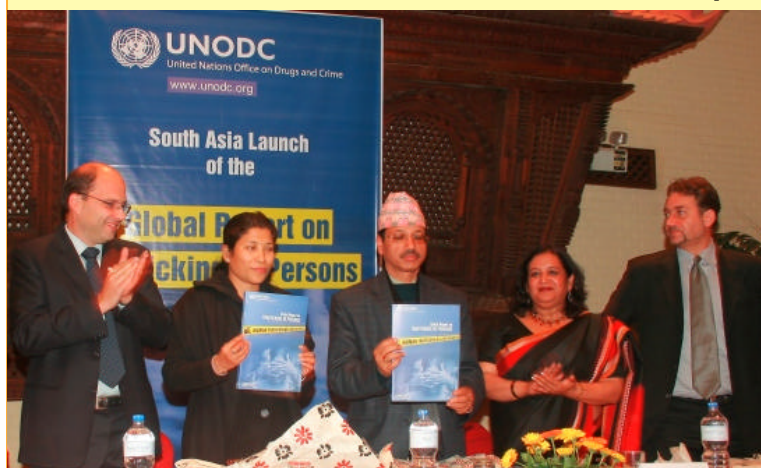
In addition to the 1,068 medal recipients, Nepal also provides MINUSTAH with a 125-member Formed Police Unit (FPU) based in Cap-Haïtien, 44 UN individual police officers deployed across the country, and ten military staff officers.

Nepal is the fifth largest contributor of uniformed personnel to United Nations peacekeeping with nearly 4,000 military and police officers serving worldwide.



## UN News

## Global Report on Human Trafficking in Persons released in Nepal



From Left: United Nations Resident & Humanitarian Coordinator for Nepal Mr. Robert Piper; Secretary, Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare Ms. Bindra Hada Bhattarai; Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs Dr. Govinda Prasad Kusum; UNODC ROSA Deputy Representative Ms. Ashita Mittal and; Nepal Programme Coordinator, UNODC Mr. Olivier Lermet during the launching of the Report.

Photo: UNODC

**Kathmandu, 13 Feb:** The UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) Regional Office for South Asia (ROSA) held the regional launching of UNODC Global Report on Trafficking in Persons amid a programme. Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs Dr. Govinda Prasad Kusum, Secretary, Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare Ms. Bindra Hada Bhattarai, UNODC ROSA Deputy Representative Ms. Ashita Mittal, United Nations Resident & Humanitarian Coordinator for Nepal Mr. Robert Piper and Nepal Programme Coordinator, UNODC Mr. Olivier Lermet spoke on various aspects of human trafficking the occasion.

UNIC National Information Officer (NIO) Ram Babu Shah moderated the programme and invited the media on the occasion.

URL: <http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/human-trafficking/global-report-on-trafficking-in-persons.html>

## UN Communication Group holds its first meeting (UNCG)

**Kathmandu, 17 Feb:** The first meeting of UN Communication Group (UNCG) was held in UNIC. It was chaired by John Brittain, UNICEF's Chief of Communication. UNIC will serve as the secretariat for the UNCG. One of the principle tasks of UNCG will be to serve as the editorial board for the UN Radio. Besides, UNCG will also deal with the common UN Country Team statements; come out with common calendar of events and arrange common visits for the media in the field. The Chair will report biannually to the UNCT on the activities of UNCG. All UN agency heads will be requested to nominate respective focal persons for the UNCG.

## UNIC participates in Nepal UN Joint Team on AIDS (JTA) Retreat

**Pokhara, 9 Feb:** Nepal UN Joint Team on AIDS (JTA) Retreat took place at Fishtail Lodge in Pokhara between the 9th and the 11th of February. Nineteen UN staff from 12 UN agencies and organizations participated. The UN TG Vice-Chair, Gillian Mellsop likewise came and shared her insights on the Joint UN Program of Support on HIV and AIDS.

As an outcome of the Nepal UN Joint Team on AIDS retreat, three main areas were focused upon to strengthen the JTA in its work and to improve the UN's capacity to coordinate its efforts on working with HIV/AIDS. The three areas to help the UN deliver as one were:

1. Strengthening the JTA's function
2. Strategic support to the national response based on existing expertise within the UN system in Nepal
3. Advocacy



UN Joint Team on AIDS Participants in Pokhara. Photo: UNAIDS

As the participants came from many different agencies, their responsibilities and the time they spent working on HIV/AIDS differed quite a lot. The allocated time that the participants had to work on HIV/AIDS varies from 5% to 100% and the annual budget differed from 0 to millions of dollars. This composition of the group made the work dynamic and as 60-70% of the participants were new in the JTA, it was also a necessary learning experience.

The participants showed a great deal of enthusiasm and were all active during the different activities. They also showed a strong will to work together as one UN and contribute collectively and more strategically to the country's response on HIV and AIDS.





UNIC &amp; UNODC jointly launching the INCB Report. Photo: UNIC

**Kathmandu, 20 Feb:** UNIC, in cooperation with the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) launched the International Narcotics Control Board's 2008 Report amid the presence of the media. Nepal Programme Coordinator, UNODC Mr. Olivier Lermet highlighted the main feature of the Report. Mr. Ganesh



Mr. Olivier Lermet, Programme Coordinator of UNODC in Nepal briefing media about the report. Photo: UNIC



Under Secretary of the Ministry of Home Affairs Mr. Ganesh Rai launching the INCB 2008 report. Photo: UNIC

Rai, Under Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs officially launched the Report and spoke on measures taken by Nepal Government to tackle trafficking of narcotic drugs. Similarly, the Deputy Inspector General of Police Kuber Singh Rana and Nepal Police Senior Superintendent of Police Hemant Malla spoke on the law enforcement aspects of drug trafficking in Nepal. The programme was moderated by UNIC's NIO.

The text of the present report is also available on the website of the Board (<http://www.incb.org/incb/annual-report-2008.html>).



NEW FACE

## New UNFPA Representative for Nepal

Mr. Ian McFarlane, new UNFPA Representative for Nepal.  
Photo: UNFPA

Mr. **Ian McFarlane**, new UNFPA Representative for Nepal arrived to Kathmandu on 7 January 2009 and one week later presented his Letter of Credentials to Mr. Upendra Yadav, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Government of Nepal. Mr. McFarlane has been serving with the UNFPA, the United Nations Population Fund, and other UN agencies at Headquarters and at the field level since 1998 in different capacities. Prior to his deputation to Nepal, he served as Special Assistant to the UNFPA Deputy Executive Director (Programmes) and as Deputy Representative in Ghana. He also served as Policy Specialist in the United Nations Development Group. Mr. McFarlane has worked in the NGO sector in the UK and Haiti.



Photo: UNHABITAT

Community using sludge as a fertilizer



Bio Gas used for cooking

household have toilet of their own. Members of Lankhu community use their own toilets. An open defecation is no more visible around, which has reduced environmental pollution," Heera Thapa, President of Biogas User Committee uttered.

The committee has provided job for three community members for the collection of degradable waste and its refining. They collect waste from around 300 households nearby Lankhu, which has also supported Lankhu and other communities in managing their solid waste to some extent and contributed in improving environmental sanitation. Thus collected waste is also used in biogas generation.

**Kathmandu Feb 28:** Shreejana Shrestha, a resident of Lankhu Community in Bharapur Municipality, today claims proudly that her community is different from other communities in the sense that residents of her community don't discharge their toilet waste openly to cause environment degradation. But it is being used in generating biogas. She along with her community members has built toilets of their own to end the open defecation as well. It has changed the perception of their neighbour communities who used to discriminate and blame them for causing environment pollution.

The community constructed a biogas plant with support of UN-HABITAT Water for Asian Cities Programme Nepal, WaterAid Nepal and LUMANTI. The plant produces biogas mainly from toilet waste and other degradable waste. The community people have now started using gas stoves that replaced their traditional cooking stoves.

"These gas stoves are more convenient as it is easy to operate," Sangeeta Bika, another inhabitant of Lankhu Community said. Since these gas stoves emit less smoke, it has improved in-house environment and reduced health problem such as eye sore and other respiratory disorders. It has also minimized community dependency on fuel wood.

According to Bika, the biogas plant has also saved her time and money, which she had to spend in managing fuel wood. She can now fulfill other daily necessities with the time and money she saved.

The community has formed a biogas users' committee to take care of the constructed biogas plant that has managed gas supply to 17 households and a local restaurant in Lankhu. Currently, the biogas is being supplied for 6 hours twice a day.

The community people constructed 17 private toilets and connected it with the digester of the biogas plant. The plant produces gas with this toilet waste.

"There was only one public toilet in Lankhu, which was insufficient for community population. After toilet construction, every

The committee earns NRs. 3600/- every month by collecting NRs. 200/- from each gas user. Hence generated amount is then used for operation and maintenance of the plant.

Since the sludge excreted after gas production has been used as compost in farmland, the biogas plant has also become a blessing for these community members that has helped them increase agricultural productivity.

The initiative of Lankhu community, even though seems simple, is praiseworthy in reality. In addition to benefiting the Lankhu and neighbour communities, it is environment friendly in the present context of climate change as it is not dependent on fuel wood and emits less green house gas.

## WATSAN Media Workshop organized in Nepal

**Kathmandu, 28 Feb:** UN-HABITAT Water for Asian Cities (WAC) Programme Nepal and GUTHI, since last two years, is working together to mainstream media in water and sanitation (WATSAN) sector with view to increase their role in raising public awareness on WATSAN issues through media advocacy. Media personals were oriented, media exposure visits were arranged, and press meet and press conferences were conducted to build up their knowledge on WATSAN issues and activities in this time period. These efforts have increased media coverage on WATSAN issues in comparison to previous years indicating the increased media advocacy.

A media workshop was also organized earlier on 15 February in Kathmandu to impart more knowledge on WATSAN issues and make media advocacy more effective. Thirty media personals representing 25 different media houses were oriented on current urban water and sanitation (WATSAN) issues at the programme. In the workshop organized by UN HABITAT WAC Nepal, GUTHI and Environment and Public Health Organization (ENPHO), experts stressed on ensuring safe drinking water and proper sanitation for improved public health.





## UN News

## Music of the Gods: The Intangible Cultural Heritage of Nepal's Musical Castes

**Kathmandu, 28 Feb:** In 2003, the General Conference of UNESCO adopted the Convention for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage and, two years later, the Convention for the Protecting the Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expression. This was done in order to integrate a concern for the safeguarding, protection and promotion of the diversity of cultural expressions within national and international policies.



Sarangee musician in Gandharba cultural event.  
Photo: Gandharba Cultural and Art Organization

Under this mandate, UNESCO Kathmandu Office, in collaboration with the Gandharba Cultural and Art Organization and Music Museum of Nepal, organized a three-day event entitled "Music of the Gods: the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Nepal's Musical Castes" in Kathmandu from 4-6 February 2009. The event was supported by

the Ministry of Culture and State Restructuring and coordinated by a local organization- Creative Statements. This event was organized to pay homage to previously underappreciated yet brilliant forms of cultural expression, as well as to revive pride among the Gandharba, Badi and Damai communities of Nepal, and to encourage them to maintain their traditions and transmit their art to younger generation of musicians and dancers. The event brought together performers from all over Nepal.

This unprecedented event by UNESCO since its establishment in Nepal was received very well by larger audience, including a renewed commitment of the Ministry of Culture and State Restructuring in the protection of the living heritage of Nepal. The event is the first of a series of activities that will address the promotion of the different cultures of Nepal.

## The International Press Freedom and Freedom of Expression Mission

**Kathmandu, 28 Feb:** UNESCO Kathmandu joins the International Media Mission to assess Press Freedom and Freedom of Expression in Nepal and focuses its work on addressing a Nepal still "Post-Conflict". Press freedoms in Nepal continue to face serious threat despite the hope that restoration of democratic rule would improve the situation. For this reason, The International Press Freedom and Freedom of Expression Mission (aka the International Media Mission or IMM) was asked to travel to Nepal and assess the current Press Freedom and Freedom of Expression in Nepal. UNESCO also joined the mission.

The Federation of Nepali Journalists recorded a staggering 342 press freedom violations in 2008 alone, including a significant escalation in the number of physical attacks on journalists and media houses. Four journalists have been killed since 2006 and one has been missing since July 2007.

The IMM has called on the authorities to undertake prompt, independent and impartial investigation of these and all other cases of murder and disappearances of journalists and expressed its concerns over the attacks on media houses: "Such attacks on media workers, publications and property are unacceptable and those responsible must be held accountable for their actions."

The first day of the IMM coincided with the launch of "Agenda for Change", a legal document produced jointly by a wide range of members of a Stakeholder Group made of mainly Nepali experts in the area of freedom of expression. Its 62 recommendations provide clear guidance for those engaged in the constitution-writing process and for legislators who will have to redraft some laws and draft some new ones. Thanking all organizations involved for such an effort, UNESCO Kathmandu's Head of Office reminded the public in his speech that "Freedom of opinion and expression, and to access information, are the heart of any democratic society: where this heart does not beat, there is no democracy."

The IMM expressed its concern over conditions for Nepali women journalists, already seriously underrepresented in the profession, because of their higher vulnerability to attack and harassment, and because they are being forced to leave their work and sometimes to move away from home due to such pressures. In this respect, UNESCO CI Kathmandu is exploring the feasibility of training Women Journalists in the Terai to help them protect them from attacks or abuses by members of the public and increasing their writing skills on basic and conflict-sensitive journalism and gender-reporting.

UNESCO CI Kathmandu is currently working on the implementation of projects aiming at addressing Nepal's post-conflict momentum. The objective is strengthen the communication and information network among CLCs and CMCs; empower rural Community Media vis a vis centre-based Community Media; develop recommendations for a legislative framework to improve regulations around freedom of expression; and increase professional capacity development for media practitioners especially women and those socially excluded. Among expected results, UNESCO Kathmandu is mostly concerned about: creating spaces for public debate and enhancing participation to the democratic process in particular for rural communities, women and those socially excluded (low castes); Informing the debate around current issues like Federalism, Good Governance, Language, Corruption and Media Freedom; and finally promoting a dialogue between grassroot communities and the Constituent Assembly.



## UN News

## Female Community Health Volunteers (FCHV)



FCHVs in Kapilvastu district are attending the ownership training as a member of the Health Facility Management Committee. Representing in the community level decision-making body, the FCHVs have made significant contributions to women's leadership and empowerment across the country.

Photo: UNV | UNFPA

A majority of the health problems prevailing in Nepal particularly in the rural areas are related to the health of women and children. High maternal mortality, high infant and child mortality, low coverage of maternal and child health services are some examples that indicate the poor health status of women and children.

Recognising the importance of women's participation in health promotion, the government of Nepal (GoN) initiated the Female Community Health Volunteer (FCHV) programme in 1988. FCHVs are locally inhabited women voluntarily serving the community with provision of community-based health education and primary healthcare services. In 2008 around 50,000 FCHVs nationwide have played great roles in meeting MDG goals, in particular, reducing the maternal mortality rate and achieving universal access to reproductive health through Maternal and Child Healthcare (MCH), family planning, immunisation, treatment of Acute Respiratory Infection (ARI) cases and referral to health facilities in districts, as frontline local health resource persons and the bridges between government health programmes and the communities. Additionally, FCHVs have made significant contributions to women's leadership and empowerment at village level, and several active FCHVs are working as Village Development Committee (VDC) members or Health Management Committee members in their communities.

An International UNV with UNFPA working as Community Health Volunteerism Coordination Officer acts as FCHV focal person and

supports the Government of Nepal (GoN) in the monitoring and evaluation of the project. The UNV's main role is to provide technical advice on the programme and regular feedback on the progress activities and budget utilization.

"Village people have frequent and good quality interaction with motivated FCHVs, and they are getting more sustainable and better quality basic healthcare services from those FCHVs who are more knowledgeable and experienced" says Chonghee Choi, the UNV posted with UNFPA.

A special UNV fund supported the development of a specific training package in the FCHV programme in 2008. This training aimed at providing clear information on guidelines on how to use effectively a community fund for the empowerment of FCHVs. UNFPA Nepal has also contributed funds for the roll-out of the training package in collaboration with other donors during the Nepalese fiscal year 2008/2009. Through cooperation between GoN, UNFPA and other donors the training package will gradually be rolled out to all 75 districts of Nepal. Village people are also receiving basic training on income generation by FCHVs who participate in the orientation training. This can enable the community to strengthen their self-help capacity.

## Community Volunteerism Saves Women's Lives

By Chonghee Choi, UNV Community Health Volunteerism Coordination Officer from Korea posted with UNFPA Nepal.

UNFPA has fully recognised the particular value of the FCHV programme and has been supporting it for several years. My main responsibilities in UNFPA are to enhance coordination and collaboration among national and international stakeholders and the Government to run the FCHV programme more effectively at the central, district and community levels. I have had many opportunities to meet Female Community Health Volunteers (FCHVs) and see how they work as volunteers. In one Dalit village in Dang I met a woman who had recently undergone surgery for Uterine Prolapse through FCHV referral. She confided to me her recognition of FCHVs work:

"After my husband went to India for work, I didn't know how to take care of my children's and my own health but thanks to FCHVs' help I can manage better now" she said.

For the volunteers of the FCHV programme life and their work are not easy either as most of them are also poor. I will never forget what one FCHV I met in a very remote village told me when I asked her what motivated her in this volunteer work. "Everyone in the village trusts me so much and I can see how this work has saved many lives here. So I cannot stop my work when people need me" she said. As another volunteer I feel very proud to work for these female volunteers who are making a difference in Nepal.





## UN News

## UN Event for March 2009

### 8 March: International Women's Day

<http://www.un.org/events/women/iwd/2007/history.shtml>

Putting women and women's rights to equality on the global agenda is the moving force behind International Women's Day marked on 8th march. The idea of a day for women, celebrated all over the world, began at the beginning of this century in America and Europe. The focus was the movement for women's rights and



achieving universal suffrage for women. International Women's Day really took hold between 1913 and 1917 when women held rallies either to protest the war or to express solidarity with their sisters. In December 1977 the UN General Assembly adopted a resolution proclaiming a United Nations Day for Women's Rights and International Peace.

### 21 March: International Day For The Elimination Of Racial Discrimination

<http://www.un.org/depts/dhl/racial/index.html>

The International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination is observed annually on 21 March. On that day, in 1960, police opened fire and killed 69 people at a peaceful demonstration in Sharpeville, South Africa, against the apartheid "pass laws". Proclaiming the Day in 1966, the General Assembly called on the international community to redouble its efforts to eliminate all forms of racial discrimination (resolution 2142 (XXI)).



### 22 March: World Day For Water

<http://www.un.org/depts/dhl/water/index.html>

The United Nations General Assembly adopted resolution A/RES/47/193 of 22 December 1992 by which 22 March of each year was declared World Day for Water, to be observed starting in 1993, in conformity with the recommendations of

the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) contained in Chapter 18 (Fresh Water Resources) of Agenda 21. States were invited to devote the Day, as appropriate in the national context, to concrete activities such as the promotion of public awareness through the publication and diffusion of documentaries and the organization of conferences, round tables, seminars and expositions related to the conservation and development of water resources and the implementation of the recommendations of Agenda 21



### 23 March: World Meteorological Day

<http://www.wmo.int/wmd>

Every year, on 23 March, the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), its 187 Members and the worldwide meteorological community celebrate World Meteorological Day. This Day commemorates the entry into force, on that date in 1950, of the WMO Convention creating the Organization. Subsequently, in 1951, WMO was designated a specialized agency of the United Nations System.



### 24 March: World TB Day

[http://www.stoptb.org/events/world\\_tb\\_day/2007/](http://www.stoptb.org/events/world_tb_day/2007/)



World Tuberculosis Day is designed to build public awareness about the disease. It commemorates the day in 1882 when Dr. Robert Koch announced he had discovered the cause of tuberculosis. His discovery opened the way toward diagnosing and curing tuberculosis.





## UN Resource Materials

## UN Nepal

**ADB**

<http://www.adb.org>

**FAO**

<http://www.fao.org>

**ILO**

<http://www.ilo.org>

**IMF**

<http://www.imf.org>

**OHCHR**

<http://nepal.ohchr.org>

**OCHA**

<http://www.un.org.np>

**UNAIDS**

<http://www.unaids.org>

**UNCDF**

<http://www.uncdf.org/nepal>

**UNDP**

<http://www.undp.org.np>

**UNESCO**

<http://www.unesco.org/kathmandu>

**UNFPA**

<http://www.unfpanepal.org>

**UN-HABITAT**

<http://www.unhabitat.org>

**UNHCR**

<http://www.unhcr.org>

**UNIC**

<http://unic.un.org/kathmandu>

**UNICEF**

<http://www.unicef.org>

**UNIFEM**

<http://www.unifem.org>

**UNMIN**

<http://www.unmin.org.np>

**UNODC**

<http://www.unodc.org>

**UNV**

<http://www.unv.org.np>

**WB**

<http://www.worldbank.org>

**WFP**

## UNIC Kathmandu in Brief

UNIC Kathmandu is located in the UN House where most of the UN agencies in Nepal are also located. UNIC has a same entrance for visitors to facilitate their access into the Centre - be it to consult the reference library; to attend press conferences or for seeking information on UN related issues.

UNIC undertakes extensive press activities, such as organizing press conferences for visiting UN officials, and for other UN agencies located in Nepal. It helps to prepare joint statements for the UN Country Team on various important issues and disseminates statements of the UN Secretary-General and other press releases/news/articles/reports coming from UN



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Headquarters. It is fully accessible to media persons and visitors during office hours.

**<http://unic.un.org/kathmandu>**

In its constant endeavor to upgrade its service delivery with new and innovative approach through recent Information Technology, UNIC Kathmandu has implemented the electronics library system with internet facility to visitors as well as eCatalogue for fast and efficient tracking of available contents in reference library. This catalogue is available online for home users as well as for other individuals.

URL:[http://kathmandu.unic.un.org/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=80&Itemid=73](http://kathmandu.unic.un.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=80&Itemid=73)